

Filtronic in discussions with Powerwave

UK-based designer and manufacturer of customised microwave electronic subsystems for the wireless telecom and defence industries, Filtronic plc, and Powerwave Technologies, Inc., the Santa Ana, CA, USA based supplier of end-to-end wireless solutions for wireless networks, have entered into a period of exclusive negotiations for the disposal of Filtronic's filter-based transmit receive module and power amplifier businesses of its Wireless Infrastructure Division.

However, Powerwave is presently undergoing a period of fiscal difficulty. Firstly, after its recent financials its CEO pointed out, "I want to stress that we are extremely disappointed with our results for the first quarter and we are utilizing all of our resources to ensure that we get back on track starting with our second quarter." Ronald Buschur, President and CEO, added: "While we did encounter an unexpected slowdown in our North American business, we do believe that the wireless infrastructure industry has a number of growth opportunities and we continue to believe that Powerwave is in excellent position to build upon and capture these opportunities in our markets throughout the world."

Moreover it also recently delisted from the Stockholm Stock Exchange.

For more details, visit: www.powerwave.com

ANADIGICS selects next-generation tester

Top 5 supplier of RFIC-based wireless and broadband solutions, ANADIGICS Inc., has selected the X-Series Fusion CX as its next generation corporate test platform. The equipment is to be provided by Westwood, MA, USA, based LTX Corporation, a provider of semiconductor test solutions. It follows an extensive evaluation of LTX's X-Series product in line with ANADIGICS' strategic test requirements.

Fusion CX has been deployed to test a wide range of devices across ANADIGICS' product portfolio, including new WLAN and WiMAX power amplifiers, and select cable set-top box tuners, with additional devices currently moving to the CX for production testing. ANADIGICS' selection has driven multiple system purchases at its base of subcontract test providers.

"ANADIGICS' selection of the X-Series as our next-generation test platform exemplifies the

strength of its test capabilities and low cost of ownership," said Dave Collier, VP of operations at ANADIGICS. "We continue to draw on our design, fabrication, and packaging expertise to advance RFIC performance and integration. The deployment of the X-Series at our test subcontractors is an important part of our capacity optimization program, allowing ANADIGICS to meet the increasing demand for its world-class products."

Fusion offers the advanced capabilities necessary for attacking the test challenges of RF wireless devices, including efficient multi-site configurations, or scaled infrastructure, and optimized software algorithms to implement modulation standards. It also offers a wide range of synthesizers and digitizers for I/Q base-band signals, and 192Mb scan per pin for DFT testing of embedded cores.

The equipment is proving popular with other major chip companies; earlier this year Texas Instruments purchased and deployed its Fusion EX test system into volume production. Another major customer, austriamicrosystems, purchased and installed two configurations of its Fusion X-Series family of test systems.

"With Fusion X-Series, LTX delivers exactly the capabilities, cost of test, and time to market that our customers require in today's competitive environment," commented David Tacelli, CEO and president of LTX. "Our commitment to scalability and compatibility assures that customers not only have the best combination of test performance and cost for each individual device type, but also that they have the flexibility necessary to optimize their test floor operations for maximum efficiency."

www.ltx.com

Labtech launches microwave MIC assembly service

Specialist high technology company Labtech is launching a focused turnkey microwave MIC assembly service to customers around the world who are looking for outsourcing solutions.

The company, which offers broadband microwave components and a range of related microwave manufacturing services from its centres in Presteigne and Milton Keynes, UK, has identified a demand for its turnkey service.

Labtech can offer a comprehensive build-to-print microwave module and component manu-

facturing service, including design support, fully automatic chip placement and wire bonding, thin film and box build assembly, microwave circuit board manufacture, RF machining and microwave alignment and test up to 40GHz.

The company has recently invested £300,000 in equipment that automates chip placement and wire bonding at its Milton Keynes centre.

"We are in a unique position of being able to offer a wide range of manufacturing services, which can be unified into a competitive and focused

turnkey microwave MIC assembly service," said Labtech's sales and marketing director Bob Lowther. "This service is designed to meet the growing market demand for outsourcing solutions."

The company has two manufacturing centres, Labtech Circuits in Presteigne, Wales, and Labtech Microwave in Milton Keynes, which collectively employ 126 staff and provide services to customers in the defence, space, SatCom and telecom markets.

For more details, visit: www.labtechmicrowave.com